

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this patent application.

Listing of the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of fabricating a titanium disilicide film in the manufacture of an integrated circuit comprising:

providing a semiconductor substrate having silicon regions to be silicided;

depositing a titanium layer directly overlying said silicon regions to be silicided;

subjecting said substrate to a laser annealing ~~whereby~~ wherein said laser annealing transforms said titanium ~~is transformed~~ to phase C40 titanium disilicide where it overlies said silicon regions and wherein said titanium not overlying said silicon regions is unreacted;

subjecting said substrate to a second annealing whereby phase C54 titanium disilicide is grown overlying said phase C40 titanium disilicide and whereby said phase C40 titanium disilicide is transformed to phase C54 titanium disilicide; and

removing said unreacted titanium layer to complete formation of said titanium disilicide film in the manufacture of said integrated circuit.

2. (original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein said silicon regions to be silicided comprise gate electrodes and associated source and drain regions.

3. (original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein said titanium layer is sputter deposited to a thickness of between about 100 and 500 Angstroms.

4. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein said laser annealing uses a laser having a wavelength of 1.06 nm and energy between about 0.5 and 1.5 Joules/cm<sup>2</sup>.

5. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein said laser annealing uses an Excimer laser having a wavelength of 248 nm and energy between about 0.1 and 1.2 Joules/cm<sup>2</sup>.

6. (original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein said second annealing is a rapid thermal annealing performed at a temperature of between about 550 and 860 °C for 0.5 to 2 minutes.

7. (original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein said second annealing is a furnace annealing performed at a temperature of between about 500 and 750 °C for 5 to 60 minutes.

8. (currently amended) A method of fabricating a titanium disilicide film in the manufacture of an integrated circuit comprising:

providing a semiconductor substrate having silicon regions to be silicided;

depositing a titanium layer directly overlying said silicon regions to be silicided;

subjecting said substrate to a laser annealing whereby wherein said laser annealing  
transforms said titanium is transformed to phase C40 titanium disilicide where it overlies said  
silicon regions and wherein said titanium not overlying said silicon regions is unreacted;

subjecting said substrate to a low temperature annealing whereby said phase C40 titanium  
disilicide is grown overlying said phase C40 titanium disilicide and whereby said phase C40  
titanium disilicide is transformed to phase C54 titanium disilicide; and

removing said unreacted titanium layer to complete formation of said titanium disilicide  
film in the manufacture of said integrated circuit.

9. (original) The method according to Claim 8 wherein said silicon regions to be silicided  
comprise gate electrodes and associated source and drain regions.

10. (original) The method according to Claim 8 wherein said titanium layer is sputter  
deposited to a thickness of between about 100 and 500 Angstroms.

11. (original) The method according to Claim 8 wherein said laser annealing uses a laser  
having a wavelength of 1.06 nm and energy between about 0.5 and 1.5 Joules/cm<sup>2</sup>.

12. (original) The method according to Claim 8 wherein said laser annealing uses an Excimer  
laser having a wavelength of 248 nm and energy between about 0.1 and 1.2 Joules/cm<sup>2</sup>.

13. (original) The method according to Claim 8 wherein said low temperature annealing is a rapid thermal annealing performed at a temperature of between about 550 and 860 °C for 0.5 to 2 minutes.

14. (original) The method according to Claim 8 wherein said low temperature annealing is a furnace annealing performed at a temperature of between about 500 and 750 °C for 5 to 60 minutes.

15. (currently amended) A method of fabricating a titanium disilicide film in the manufacture of an integrated circuit comprising:

providing a semiconductor substrate having silicon regions to be silicided;  
depositing a titanium layer directly overlying said silicon regions to be silicided;  
subjecting said substrate to a laser annealing whereby  
~~transforms said titanium is transformed~~ to phase C40 titanium disilicide where it overlies said silicon regions and wherein said titanium not overlying said silicon regions is unreacted;  
subjecting said substrate to a second annealing at a temperature of less than 700 °C whereby said phase C40 titanium disilicide is transformed to phase C54 titanium disilicide; and  
removing said unreacted titanium disilicide to complete formation of said titanium disilicide film in the manufacture of said integrated circuit.

16. (original) The method according to Claim 15 wherein said silicon regions to be silicided comprise gate electrodes and associated source and drain regions.

17. (original) The method according to Claim 15 wherein said titanium layer is sputter deposited to a thickness of between about 100 and 500 Angstroms.

18. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 15 wherein said laser annealing uses a laser having a wavelength of 1.06 nm and energy between about 0.5 and 1.5 Joules/cm<sup>2</sup>.

19. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 15 wherein said laser annealing uses an Excimer laser having a wavelength of 248 nm and energy between about 0.1 and 1.2 Joules/cm<sup>2</sup>.

20. (original) The method according to Claim 15 wherein said second annealing is a rapid thermal annealing performed at a temperature of between about 550 and 860 °C for 0.5 to 2 minutes.

21. (original) The method according to Claim 15 wherein said second annealing is a furnace annealing performed at a temperature of between about 500 and 750 °C for 5 to 60 minutes.